

Message Text

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P R 292150Z JUN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 165911

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJECT: LOS - NJENGA'S ATTENDANCE AT RESUMED LOS SESSION

REF: GENEVA 9833

1. REFTEL INDICATES NJENGA'S UNCERTAINTY ABOUT ATTENDING RESUMED SESSION OF THE LOS CONFERENCE. THIS SEEMS TO BE AT VARIANCE WITH YOUR REPORT (NAIROBI 8678) THAT A FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL SAID NJENGA WOULD DEFINITELY ATTEND. AS BERLIND AND KATZ STRESSED TO NJENGA DURING THEIR CONVERSATION WITH HIM JUNE 28 IN GENEVA, I PLACE HIGH IMPORTANCE ON NJENGA'S ATTENDANCE. HE SKILLFULLY PRESIDED OVER THE WORK ON NEGOTIATING GROUP ONE ON THE SYSTEM OF EXPLORATION AND EXPLOITATION. WHILE THE TEXTS PRODUCED BY HIS NEGOTIATING GROUP ARE OBJECTIONABLE TO THE US IN MANY RESPECTS,
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THEY ARE A GOOD BASIS FOR CONTINUING NEGOTIATIONS. MORE IMMEDIATELY, THE NEGOTIATION PROCESS WHICH NJENGA DEVELOPED OFFERS REASONABLE PROSPECT OF CARRYING OUR WORK FORWARD IN A CONSTRUCTIVE WAY DESPITE THE FRICTION BETWEEN HIM AND THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE I, PAUL ENGO. I THINK NJENGA IS UNDOUBTEDLY THE BEST PERSON TO DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS ON OTHER SEABEDS ISSUES WHICH WE BELIEVE MUST BE ADDRESSED AT THE

RESUMED SESSION.

2. WHILE I AM ENCOURAGED BY REPORT IN REFTEL THAT NJENGA INDICATED HE MIGHT WANT TO WRITE TO HIS FOREIGN MINISTRY STATING THAT IT WAS FELT HE WAS NEEDED IN NEW YORK, I AGREE WITH HIM IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF WE MADE OUR VIEWS CLEARLY KNOWN TO THE KENYAN FOREIGN MINISTRY. I WOULD THEREFORE APPRECIATE YOUR RAISING THE MATTER OF NJENGA'S ATTENDANCE AT THE RESUMED SESSION AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL YOU CONSIDER SUITABLE IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. IN DOING SO, PLEASE DRAW AS APPROPRIATE ON REFTEL AND ON MY LETTER OF JUNE 12 TO NJENGA. I WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR AN EARLY INDICATION OF THE REACTION OF THE KENYAN AUTHORITIES.

VANCE

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